

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8729

To establish a Native American language resource center.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Ms. HAALAND (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CASE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. COOK, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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# A BILL

To establish a Native American language resource center.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Native American Lan-  
5       guage Resource Center Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7       The purposes of this Act are to create a national re-  
8       source center to further the policies set forth in the Native

1 American Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2901 et seq.) and,  
2 through such national resource center, to—

3                 (1) preserve, protect, and promote the rights  
4                 and freedom of Native Americans to use, practice,  
5                 and develop Native American languages (as defined  
6                 in section 103 of the Native American Languages  
7                 Act (25 U.S.C. 2902));

8                 (2) allow the United States to fulfill its trust  
9                 responsibility to Native American communities and  
10                 address the effects of past discrimination against  
11                 Native American language speakers;

12                 (3) support revitalization of Native American  
13                 languages;

14                 (4) encourage and support the use of Native  
15                 American languages as a medium of instruction, in-  
16                 cluding use as a medium of education in schools op-  
17                 erated by Tribes, States, the Federal Government,  
18                 and Native American language educational organiza-  
19                 tions;

20                 (5) encourage and support the use and develop-  
21                 ment of Native American languages as the medium  
22                 of instruction for a wide variety of age levels and  
23                 academic content areas;

24                 (6) encourage and support elementary schools,  
25                 secondary schools, and institutions of higher edu-

1 cation to include Native American languages in the  
2 curriculum in the same manner as other world lan-  
3 guages, including through cooperative agreements  
4 and distance education, and to grant proficiency in  
5 Native American languages the same full academic  
6 credit as proficiency in other world languages;

7 (7) encourage and support the development of  
8 appropriate teacher preparation programming for  
9 the teaching of, and through, Native American lan-  
10 guages, including appropriate alternative pathways  
11 to teacher certification;

12 (8) provide a resource base to provide informa-  
13 tion to Federal, Tribal, State, and local governments  
14 and Native American educational organizations to  
15 allow the spread of best practices in the use, prac-  
16 tice, and development of Native American languages  
17 in Native American communities, including use in  
18 educational institutions;

19 (9) provide a resource base for the use of tech-  
20 nology in intensive community-, land-, and archive-  
21 based programs, as well as hybrid and collaborative  
22 programs in supporting the retention, use, develop-  
23 ment, and teaching of Native American languages by  
24 government and private entities;

1                         (10) provide a developmental base from which  
2 interested Tribal colleges and universities and other  
3 Native American entities might develop fully func-  
4 tioning Native American language medium education  
5 systems that include associated preschool, elemen-  
6 tary school, secondary school, and adult education  
7 programs conducted through the medium of Native  
8 American languages;

9                         (11) provide a means to further collaboration  
10 among formal government, institutional, and com-  
11 munity-based Native American language programs,  
12 resources, and research efforts with additional access  
13 to international best practices in indigenous lan-  
14 guage revitalization; and

15                         (12) develop a support center system for Native  
16 American language participants to gather and share  
17 helpful information and experiences.

18 **SEC. 3. NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE RESOURCE CENTER.**

19                         Section 603 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
20 U.S.C. 1123) is amended—

21                         (1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as  
22 subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

23                         (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
24 lowing:

1       “(b) NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE RESOURCE CEN-  
2 TER AUTHORIZED.—

3           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized  
4 to make a grant to, or enter into a contract with,  
5 an eligible entity for the purpose of—

6           “(A) establishing, strengthening, and oper-  
7 ating a Native American language resource and  
8 training center as described in paragraph (2);  
9 and

10          “(B) staffing the center with individuals  
11 who have high-level fluency in American Indian,  
12 Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian languages  
13 and are experienced with Native American lan-  
14 guage education in the preschool, elementary  
15 school, secondary school, adult education, and  
16 higher education programs.

17          “(2) PURPOSES OF CENTER.—The Native  
18 American language resource center established under  
19 paragraph (1) shall serve as a resource to—

20           “(A) improve the capacity to teach and  
21 learn Native American languages and further  
22 Native American language acquisition;

23           “(B) preserve, protect, and promote the  
24 rights and freedom of Native Americans to use,

1 practice, and develop Native American lan-  
2 guages;

3 “(C) allow the United States to fulfill its  
4 trust responsibility to Native American commu-  
5 nities and address the effects of past discrimi-  
6 nation against Native American language  
7 speakers;

8 “(D) support revitalization of Native  
9 American languages;

10 “(E) encourage and support the use of Na-  
11 tive American languages as a medium of in-  
12 struction, including use as a medium of edu-  
13 cation in schools operated by Tribes, States, the  
14 Federal Government, and Native American lan-  
15 guage educational organizations;

16 “(F) encourage and support the use and  
17 development of Native American languages as  
18 the medium of instruction for a wide variety of  
19 age levels and academic content areas;

20 “(G) encourage and support elementary  
21 schools, secondary schools, and institutions of  
22 higher education to include Native American  
23 languages in the curriculum in the same man-  
24 ner as other world languages, including through  
25 cooperative agreements and distance education,

1 and to grant proficiency in Native American  
2 languages the same full academic credit as pro-  
3 ficiency in other world languages;

4 “(H) encourage and support the develop-  
5 ment of appropriate teacher preparation pro-  
6 gramming for the teaching of, and through, Na-  
7 tive American languages, including appropriate  
8 alternative pathways to teacher certification;

9 “(I) provide a resource base to provide in-  
10 formation to Federal, Tribal, State, and local  
11 governments and Native American educational  
12 organizations to allow the spread of best prac-  
13 tices in the use, practice, and development of  
14 Native American languages in Native American  
15 communities, including use in educational insti-  
16 tutions;

17 “(J) provide a resource base for the use of  
18 technology in intensive community-, land-, and  
19 archive-based programs, as well as hybrid and  
20 collaborative programs in supporting the reten-  
21 tion, use, development, and teaching of Native  
22 American languages by government and private  
23 entities;

24 “(K) support the acquisition of distance  
25 learning technologies and training for parents,

1 students, teachers, and learning support staff,  
2 including the compilation and curation of dig-  
3 ital libraries and other online resources in tar-  
4 get Native American languages, the develop-  
5 ment of distance learning curricula appropriate  
6 for preschool, elementary school, secondary  
7 school, adult education, and postsecondary edu-  
8 cation, the pedagogical training for teachers,  
9 and other efforts necessary to continue Native  
10 American language acquisition among American  
11 Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian  
12 communities through distance learning;

13 “(L) provide a developmental base from  
14 which interested Tribal colleges and universities  
15 and other Native American entities might de-  
16 velop fully functioning Native American lan-  
17 guage medium education systems that include  
18 associated preschool, elementary school, sec-  
19 ondary school, and adult education programs  
20 conducted through the medium of Native Amer-  
21 ican languages;

22 “(M) provide a means to further collabora-  
23 tion among formal government, institutional,  
24 and community-based Native American lan-  
25 guage programs, resources, and research efforts

1       with additional access to international best  
2       practices in indigenous language revitalization;

3           “(N) develop a support center system for  
4       Native American language participants to gather  
5       and share helpful information and experiences; and

6  
7           “(O) address any of the purposes of foreign language centers included under this section if, in doing so, the Native American language resource and training center—

8  
9              “(i) does so as a subsidiary activity;  
10             “(ii) focuses benefits on Native Americans living in Native American communities, or closely tied to such communities; and

11             “(iii) ensures that one of the outcomes being strengthened through this subparagraph is the use of one or more Native American languages in a Native American community.

12       “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

13           “(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

14              “(i) an institution of higher education;

1                         “(ii) a consortium of such institutions;

2                         or

3                         “(iii) a consortium of such institutions  
4                         and other entities with unique responsibil-  
5                         ties for Native American languages.

6                         “(B) NATIVE AMERICAN; NATIVE AMER-  
7                         ICAN LANGUAGE.—The terms ‘Native Amer-  
8                         ican’ and ‘Native American language’ have the  
9                         meanings given those terms in section 103 of  
10                         the Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C.  
11                         2902).”; and

12                         (3) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) of  
13                         subsection (c), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by  
14                         striking “subsection (a)” and inserting “this sec-  
15                         tion”.

